



**CALIFORNIA  
HIGH-SPEED RAIL  
AUTHORITY**

**Weekly Executive Director's Report, August 10-16, 2009**

**FROM:** Mehdi Morshed  
**TO:** Authority Board Members

TOPIC / UPDATE	LINE SEGMENT	AUTHORITY STAFF	RELEVANT DATE	NEXT STEP / ACTION NEEDED
<b>HOT TOPICS</b>				
<b>Recovery Act (ARRA) Guidelines</b> Guidelines for Track 2 project submissions were released by the federal government Thursday, 8/13. • Application guidelines can be read here: <a href="http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2248">http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2248</a>	All	Mehdi Morshed, Carrie Pourvahidi, Tony Daniels	10/2/2009	The Authority, working through the Governor's Office and with Authority Board approval, will develop and submit an application for funds by the deadline. Recommendation will be brought to September Board meeting.
<b>POLICY DEVELOPMENTS</b>				
<b>Recovery Act (ARRA) Application</b> The Project Management team and Authority staff have been working toward the submission of an application for a portion of the \$8 billion in ARRA funding available for high-speed rail. Applications will require that funded projects have completed all environmental clearance by the end of September 2011. This may require that the Authority break segments into smaller projects which can clear environmental review more quickly.	All	Mehdi Morshed, Carrie Pourvahidi, Tony Daniels	9/3/2009, 10/2/2009	<p>The Authority's recommendations for projects to be submitted to the federal government for consideration will be brought to the Board's 9/3 meeting for approval.</p> <p>Application is due to the federal government by 10/2 (prior to the October monthly meeting).</p> <p>The Governor's Office will reconcile HSRA's recommendations with Caltrans' and submit the report. We are working with the Governor's Office (Cynthia Bryant).</p>

## OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

### City Briefings

Regional program management staff met with the cities of Anaheim, Santa Fe Springs, and Fullerton.	Los Angeles - Anaheim	Jeff Barker	8/12, 8/13, and 8/14/2009, respectively
• Issues discussed: Alternative Alignments			

### Fresno State University

Central Valley outreach/project management met with Campus Planning Department in response to request from FSU.	Bakersfield - Merced	Jeff Barker	8/10/2009
• Issues discussed: General outreach, presentation, update			

### Visitation Valley Citizens Advisory Committee

Regional project staff met with the city of San Francisco's Visitation Valley redevelopment committee for general project update.	San Francisco - San Jose	Jeff Barker	8/11/2009
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### San Mateo Public Information Officers

Regional staff spoke at the San Mateo County Public Information Officers Network.	San Francisco - San Jose	Jeff Barker	8/11/2009
• Issues discussed: General project overview			

### Presentations / Briefings

Presented current alignment and station location options to The Nature Conservancy (8/13/09) and Disney Corporation (8/14/09).	Los Angeles- Palmdale	Jeff Barker	8/13/2009 and 8/14/2009
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### **Fresno Downtown HST Technical Working Group**

Regional Consultant (URS) and program management staff met with the representatives from the City of Fresno, County of Fresno and Fresno COG.

- Issues discussed: Alternative Alignments and station location currently being considered through Fresno. Solicited feedback from the group.

Merced -  
Bakersfield

Carrie Bowen, Tom  
Tracy

8/12/2009

As part of the Alternatives Analysis (AA) process, will return for a follow-up report on progress in September.

### **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

#### **Bills**

No current action; Legislative Summer Recess continues until August 17th.

Steve Schnaidt

8/17/2009

#### **Meetings**

Assembly Speaker Bass and other Assembly legislators plan September 13-15, 2009 legislative visit to Washington, D.C. to support state ARRA application for high-speed rail funds.

Steve Schnaidt

9/13-15/2009

Should brief legislators on ARRA application once approved by the Board at 9/3 meeting (this will also require the involvement of the Governor's Office). Communications (Barker et al) is looped in regarding pre-trip briefing materials.

## ENGINEERING/ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS UPDATES

### FRA Asked To Take Federal Lead For Altamont Corridor

Authority Staff has engaged the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regarding becoming the federal lead agency for the Altamont Corridor Rail Project environmental review process (the Authority is the lead state agency). This proposed joint-use rail project will complement the Authority's proposed HST network. At the request of the FRA, a "Project Justification" for the Altamont Corridor Rail Project was developed and submitted (08/03/2009) along with the transmittal requesting that they become the lead federal agency.

Altamont

Dan Leavitt, John  
Harrison

n/a

Continue working with the FRA and develop Draft Notice of Preparation (NOP)/Notice of Intent (NOI).

## MEDIA

### NPR.

Ina Jaffe out of NPR's West Coast operation is reporting a thorough radio piece on the need for high-speed rail in California.

All

Jeff Barker

Expected run  
date: unk

We are working to set up interview with Chairman Pringle.

### Bay Area Newsgroup / Kopp op-ed.

Board member Kopp's op-ed response to a previous piece ("Altamont Pass is the high-speed answer for some," July 20) ran in the San Mateo County Times and online at other Bay Area Newsgroup papers' Web sites.

San Francisco -  
San Jose

Jeff Barker

Ran: 8/12/2009

- The item can be read here:  
[http://www.insidebayarea.com/opinion/san\\_mateo/ci\\_13038190?source=rss](http://www.insidebayarea.com/opinion/san_mateo/ci_13038190?source=rss)

## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

### **Mobility 2030**

The German American Chamber of Commerce has been promoting transatlantic business relations for years. Mehdi Morshed has been invited to speak at its expert symposium, "Mobility 2030: Transportation Technologies & Lifestyles of the Future."

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Mehdi Morshed is tentatively scheduled to attend

8/18/2009

- Location: San Francisco

## **OTHER AUTHORITY BUSINESS**

### **Outreach RFP**

The Authority received nine proposals by Wednesday's RFP deadline for the new Statewide Outreach/ Communications contract. The new contractor will, going forward, report through the Authority rather than as a subcontractor to the project management team.

All

Jeff Barker

8/12/2009

A three-member panel will review the applications and hold in-person interviews on approximately 8/26/2009. A staff recommendation will be brought to the September Authority Board meeting.